

Sterling Forest Resort Casino, My Thoughts June 24, 2014

When I initially saw the presentation by Genting, about 2 months ago, my initial reaction was, "Oh no, not here!"

But, as I listened to those involved, the Town Supervisor, Mike Rost, the Trustees, concerned residents, those who have been on the ground when other big entities have come to Tuxedo, all offering a better way for the future, I knew I needed to take a neutral position in order to get as much pertinent information as possible. A decision without the pull of one side of the issue or another, free of emotion, in order to form an opinion that will be one that would be in the best interest of the Village and Town, one I can live with, not just now but well into the future.

This process to bring casinos to our area is a severely flawed one. The State of New York, when putting this to the voters last November, indicated this was for the benefit of "upstate" locations, who are struggling financially, where unemployment is rampant. The NY State Gaming Commission added Orange County, a curious move on the State's part, as I see Orange County as "downstate". How does this help those further north, in Monticello and Newburgh for instance? What happens to Sterling Forest Resort seven (7) years after they receive their license? When casinos can come "downstate" to Manhattan, for instance? Who will come swooping in to buy it, if it isn't profitable any longer? Not to mention the countless environmental issues that will come up during the SEQRA process, this area of state lands and parks, the Appalachian Trail, our watershed, how will these all be protected? There are too many unanswered questions, and this is not a game of chance that I feel we should be part of.

The passion and emotions for either side of this issue are understandable, the dangling of what I have been calling a "Golden Carrot" by Genting is surely enticing. The numbers are huge, \$50 Million dollars, on top of the projected \$10.9 Million in annual revenue. Will this be enough to satisfactorily accomplish all that is needed to keep this community safe? Will traffic move along the Thruway up to the New Exit 15B and not on Route 17? Will hundreds of local residents be working at the casino? Will this be enough to complete all the infrastructure projects that are before the

Town and Village? Without the casino, these will continue to be a financial struggle. But, we will have peace of mind knowing that we will not be financing our community needs on the backs of those who are spending their hard earned money on games of chance, money that most of them can ill afford to part with.

A vote as important as this will affect our Village and Town for years to come, perhaps forever, and I have weighed the consequences very carefully.

We have voted to become an Interested Agency during the SEQRA process (State Environmental Quality Review Act), in the event the project gets approval from NY State and the Gaming Commission. This enables the Village to receive all submissions and notices relating to the casino's review process. This is an important step for the Village should this go forward.

June 26, 2014

As Trustee Goodfellow so eloquently stated, we fought long and hard for our status of historical recognition, by the National Register of Historic Places, in 1980. This is a fact that I so often use in describing our Village to those who are not familiar. I hope many residents take pride in this status, and I would venture to guess most of us moved here because of the historic homes that abound here in a beautiful, lakeside setting. I cannot imagine describing our Town and Village as the place with the casino.

Does the promise of \$10 Million lessen certain issues that we face, yes, but is it enough? The downside that comes with this casino project are far more onerous.

I will say again, the fault here lies with the State of New York and this exceedingly unfortunate process. The boards of the Town and Village have been put through undue stress, and sadly, many relationships have been fractured, at what cost? Our community has been shaken and it is indeed a sad day for all.